

Briefly, before our invention, it was difficult and expensive for patients, doctors and hospitals to obtain, store, and share various medical information and images (such as MRI films) and then to interchange such information and images between the patients, doctors and hospitals. Each hospital had its own library or central record keeping facility and its own set of rules for storage and access, such as is the case with the Ballantyne references.

Our invention has solved these and other difficult problems and has advanced the medical profession and medical care substantially. Our invention enables easy, simple, reliable and inexpensive storage and processing of medical information and images using a single server connected to the network (such as the INTERNET), and again easy, simple, reliable and inexpensive accessing and obtaining of such medical information and images using the Internet by any subscriber providing a verifiable ID. There is only one set of protocols involved, merely providing a verifiable ID. In contrast, with the prior art, there were thousands of different sets of rules which had to be followed to obtain medical information and images held by separate hospitals, such as is the case with the Ballantyne reference. Thus, advantageously, our invention saves substantial sums of money, saves substantial time for access, and in many cases because of its readily accessible nature, saves lives on an unprecedented scale. The use of the one set of protocols for every subscriber saves time, effort and money. This has greatly improved our health system, and continues to do so.

In contradistinction, Ballantyne discloses what is the prior art, namely it has a central library in the hospital for storage of medical information and images. Any one outside the hospital must follow its rules in order to obtain access to the medical information and images, such as following permission protocols from a doctor concerned and the patient, before the desired data is sent to them desiring access. This takes time, effort and is expensive.

Comparing Ballantyne to our invention is like comparing a prop plane (Ballantyne) to a jet plane (our invention). There is just no comparison. Our invention is in a league completely different from the Ballantyne disclosure, and clearly, no extension of Ballantyne would make obvious our recited invention of claims 59-75.

Moreover, none of the remaining secondary references Kotake, Roewer and Tanaka, even when combined with the primary reference Ballantyne, would make obvious the instantly recited invention. Kotake only shows registration of information in a subscriber base. Roewer only shows means of providing a hard copy of information. Tanaka only shows transmittal of part and all of a set of information.

But, clearly, even when all of these secondary and primary references are combined, in one manner or another, there is still no showing or extension or suggestion which would make obvious our recited system using the Internet to have stored medical information in a single server accessible by subscriber using the Internet with verifiable ID. Accordingly, the information is then

sent through the internet to the subscriber for his use.

Accordingly, there is no support for any SECTION 103 rejection over the cited art, singly or in combination. Hence, applicant respectfully solicits reconsideration and allowance.

The inventor wishes to add the following technical comments.

--- Ballantyne has, in a hospital, a server that provides service, and the server provides service to a client through a network. In my invention, we perform "image storage" and "image providing" to a client (for example, an image diagnostic apparatus or a viewer) in a hospital through an external public network, such as the Internet.

Ballantyne must store image data etc and manage them because he HAS A MASTER LIBRARY IN A HOSPITAL.

On the other hand, we perform the service of storing/managing image data, etc, through a public network, such as the INTERNET, and ONE DATA CENTER PERFORMS THE UNIFYING SERVICE IN OUR INVENTION. (Conventionally, such as Ballantyne, each data center in each hospital performs the service.

Consequently, our invention eliminates the service of storing/managing image data in a hospital, as required by Ballantyne and other prior art.----

Accordingly, allowance is respectfully solicited.

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respectfully
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